

IRS News Release

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IRS Urges Taxpayers to e-file Extension Requests

IR-2006-60, April 12, 2006

WASHINGTON — The IRS urges taxpayers who need more time to complete their tax returns to e-file their extensions. E-filing an extension is convenient, safe and secure, and taxpayers receive confirmation to keep with their records.

"If you haven't finished your return, don't panic," said IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson. "Just file an extension, either by e-file or by mail."

The agency expects to receive 9.6 million extensions during 2006. Taxpayers can get an automatic 6-month extension of time to file their tax returns by filing Form 4868, Automatic Extension of Time to File.

The extension gives taxpayers until October 16 to file the tax return. In previous years, only a 4-month extension was automatic and taxpayers who needed more time had to make a second request.

Taxpayers can e-file the extension from a home computer or through a tax professional who uses e-file. Taxpayers can e-file their extensions at no cost. Several companies offer free e-filing of extensions through the Free File Alliance; these companies are listed on IRS.gov.

Last year, 9.4 million extensions were filed with the IRS. Overall, e-filed extensions made up 19 percent of all extensions filed during 2005. Last year, 1.8 million extensions were e-filed, up from 1.4 million in 2004 – an increase of 29 percent.

An extension of time to file does not give the taxpayer an extension of time to pay. Those who owe taxes can make a payment when they file the extension either by mailing a check or by several electronic payment methods such as electronic funds withdrawals from bank accounts and credit card payments.

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[The filing season statistics for the week ending April 7, 2006, follow.]

	04/08/2005	04/07/2006	Percent Change
Total Receipts	88,049,000	87,732,000	-0.4
Total Processed	82,734,000	82,747,000	0.0
E-filing Receipts			
TOTAL	55,782,000	57,740,000	3.5
Tax Professionals	39,372,000	41,939,000	6.5
Self-prepared	13,551,000	15,801,000	16.6
Telefile	2,859,000	NA	NA
Web Usage			
Visits to IRS.gov	96,074,733	103,132,922	7.3
Total Refunds			
Number	72,278,000	71,835,000	-0.6
Amount	\$158,222 billion	\$164.499 billion	4.0
Average	\$2,189	\$2,290	4.6
Direct Deposit Refunds			
Number	44,275,000	46,917,000	6.0
Amount	\$113.790 billion	124.366 billion	9.3
Average	\$2,570	\$2,651	3.1